(d) whether Government have agreed to provide funds for implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests has not received any such proposal from the State Forest Department.

National Forest Commission

2408. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to constitute a National Forest Commission, in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the tasks proposed to be assigned to the Commission; and

(c) by when the commission is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to constitute a National Forest Commission to look into the restructuring, reform and strengthening the entire forest set up and affiliated institutions in the country.

(b) The terms of reference of the Commission are:

(i) Review and assess the existing policy and legal framework and their impact in a holistic manner from the ecological, economic, scientific, economic social and cultural view point.

(ii) Examine the current status of forest administration and the forestry institutions both at all India and State level to meet the emerging needs of the civil society.

(iii) Make recommendations indicating specific policy options for achieving sustainable forest and wildlife management and development, bio-diversity conservation and ecological security.

(iv) Suggest ways and means to make forest administration more

effective with a view to help to achieve the above policy options.

(v) Establish meaningful partnership and interface between forestry management and local communities including tribals.

The composition of the National Forest Commission includes full-time chairperson, member secretary and five part-time members.

(c) The Commission is likely to be in the place at the earliest as the decision to constitute it has already been taken.

Environmental Reports by States

2409. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the State governments are not adequately sensitised to environmental concerns, and do not have even the basic data, necessary for analysis;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has asked the State Governments to prepare regular environmental reports;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have decided to provide help/assistance to State Governments; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) A plan scheme has been incorporated in the Tenth Five Year Plan to design and operationalise a participatory and scientifically rigorous State of Environment (SoE) Reporting System in India. An outlay of Rs. 6.00 crores has been provided for this scheme to assist the State Governments in this regard.

(e) Does not arise.